

# Washington State Patrol Media Release

*Chief John R. Batiste*



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## **WSP AND DOL ANNOUNCE STATEWIDE DIESEL FUEL TAX EMPHASIS**

The Washington State Patrol and Department of Licensing Fuel Tax Division announced today a joint statewide emphasis on checking diesel commercial vehicles for the presence of red dyed fuel. The emphasis will run from December 5 – 31, 2005, and involve over 200 officers and agents.

A red dye is added to diesel for use in off road equipment, local and state government and some farm vehicles. Red dyed diesel is not taxed the 31 cents a gallon Washington rate. Red dyed diesel is not legal in all other licensed vehicles using the public roadway.

In the past two years the Fuel Tax Unit has assessed \$1.3 million as a result of fuel tax fraud investigations. Persons wanting to report illegal use of red dyed diesel can call the Fuel Tax Evasion Hotline at 1(800) 497-FUEL. All calls are confidential,

“The diesel fuel tax is an important factor in supporting our roads and infrastructure. Those who use the roadways help maintain them with a portion of the fuel tax monies” stated WSP Lieutenant Jeffrey Jones.

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### **Media Opportunities:**

- Observe WSP Troopers and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers conduct dyed fuel emphasis.
- Interview WSP Troopers and Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officers.
- Interview truck drivers.

**To set up a ride along or interview, please contact one of the PIO's listed at the top of this release.**